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ANNE RICE TAKES ON WEREWOLVES NOW {page 11}

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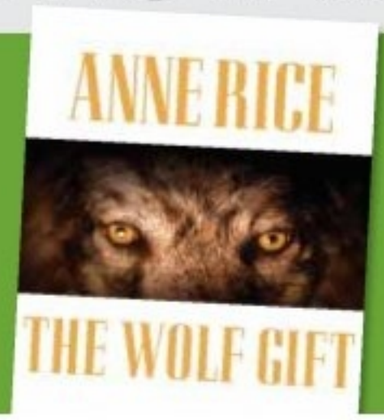
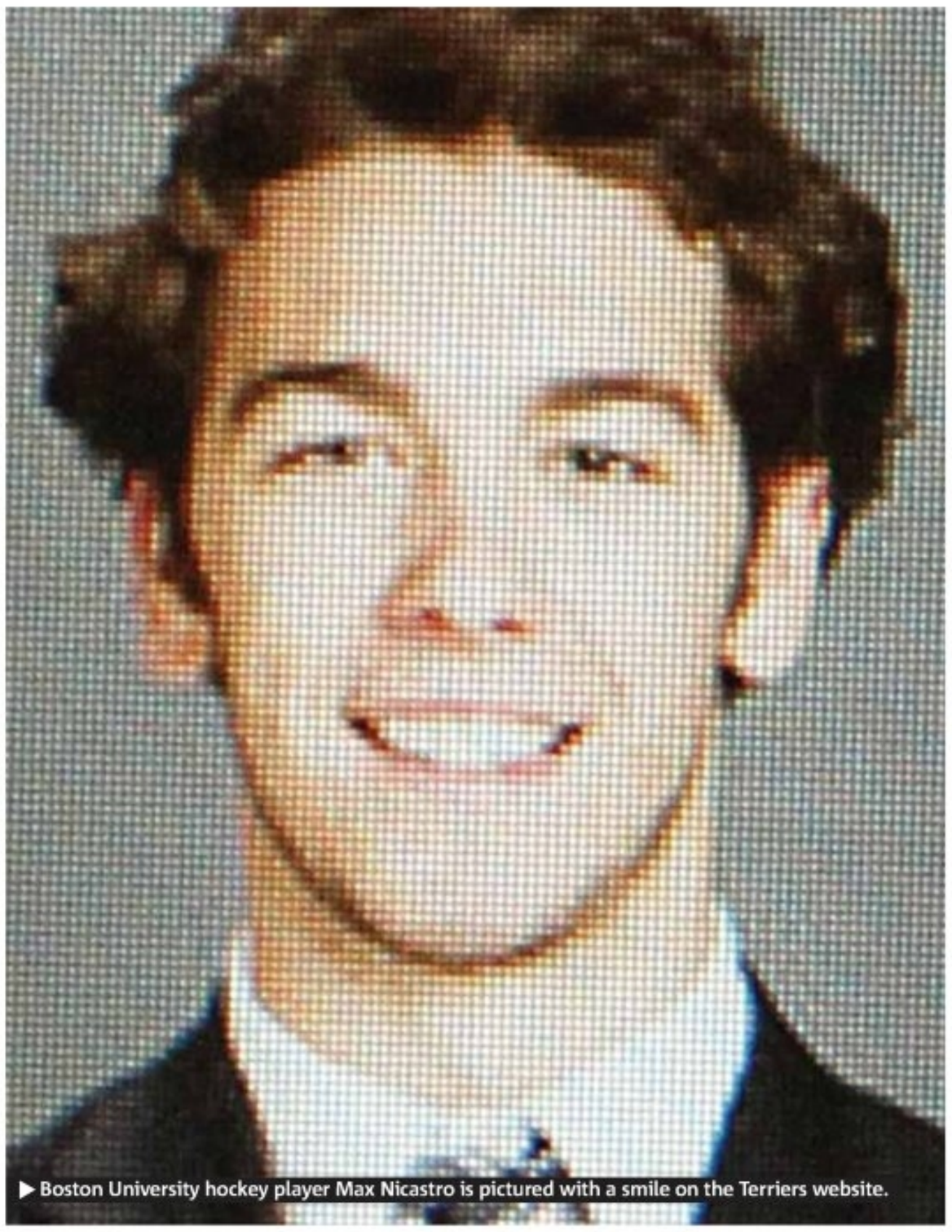
BOSTON
Tuesday, February 21, 2012





▶ Boston University hockey player Max Nicastro is pictured with a smile on the Terriers website.

BU hockey star arrested, faces charges in sex assault

Nicastro expected to be arraigned in Hub courtroom today ◐ Incident is university's second alleged sexual assault involving a hockey player this winter {page 04}

The Word

Whitney's stuff already on the block

Houston just buried, but her possessions may be auctioned off soon {page 09}

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Dot blaze leaves five firefighters injured

- A 13-year-old boy was burned
- Officials said a cigarette was the cause
- Officials estimate that early morning blaze caused $500,000 in damages

The "careless disposal of a cigarette" on a second-floor porch allegedly led to a three-alarm blaze that left five firefighters injured and a 13-year-old burned in Dorchester early yesterday morning.

According to Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald, while no one suffered from serious injuries, five on-scene responders were sent to an area hospital after fighting a blaze that ripped through the top floors of a triple-decker building on Harvard Avenue.

MacDonald said the three-alarm fire caused two porches to collapse, and fire was spewing from the windows when firefighters arrived on the scene.

Firefighters were able to prevent the flames from spreading to a dwelling next door.

MacDonald said a mini-van parked directly in front of the apartment building also caught fire when the two porches began to fall apart.

"It was very fast-moving," he said. "The first ladder truck ordered a second alarm as soon as they arrived."

A call for the burning building came in around 5:43 a.m., and it took several hours for more than 75 Boston firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

Fire officials determined that the house was "a total loss."

"It was a large volume of fire, and the second and third floor porches collapsed into the streets. The fire was blowing out the windows, and firefighters had to take steps to prevent it from spreading."
BFD SPOKESMAN STEVE MACDONALD

Details

- Five firefighters were injured in the early morning blaze. Three of them suffered from chest pains.
- Fire officials estimated the the fire caused $500,000 worth of damage to the Dorchester home.
- According to reports, nine people, including five children and four adults, were displaced by the fire.

A 13-year-old resident was also sent to the hospital to treat minor burns to his head, according to fire officials.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ A three-alarm fire destroyed a triple-decker home in Dorchester.

Cigarette caused blaze

According to BFD spokesman Steve MacDonald, a poorly discarded cigarette left on the second floor porch of the home was the cause of the early morning fire.

The blaze started on the porch before working its way up to the third floor, and eventually, the roof.

In the news

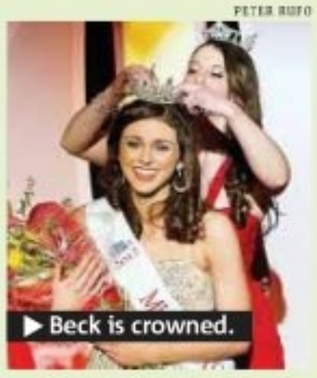
$10

The amount that a Boston man allegedly charged while pretending to be a parking attendant this weekend. According to a Boston Police report, Collins Mukasa, 25, was arrested early Monday morning and charged with trespassing and larceny by scheme. Mukasa allegedly began parking people's cars without authorization in a private lot after the business had closed for the evening. Police said the suspect had parked about 17 cars. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Ok #mbta , I know it is a holiday but people are still expecting the bus to show up at least once in an hour. #sending youmytaxibill"
@ERINEBLAKE WAITING FOR A BUS ON THE PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY YESTERDAY.

PETER RUFO



▶ Beck is crowned.

Harvard student wins Miss Boston

BOSTON. A Harvard student took the title of "Miss Boston" Sunday evening, wowing judges with her piano-playing skills and choice of evening wear. According to The Crimson, Kelsey Beck, a sophomore at the Ivy League school, beat out 10 other contestants over the weekend to become the 2012 Miss Boston. Besides the crown, Beck took home $4,500 in scholarship money and will now have a chance to compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts 2012 in June. METRO

Professor's invention examined

BOSTON. Officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have their eye on a new energy enhancer that delivers a shot of caffeine from a spray canister. Aeroshot was developed by Harvard professor David Edwards. The caffeine-sprayer didn't require initial screening because it was being sold as a dietary supplement. METRO

Club closed after fight

DORCHESTER. A Dorchester bar was shut down following an incident over the weekend where seven people were allegedly stabbed. According to Boston Police, Ups N' Downs on Neponset Avenue shuttered its doors after a bouncer suffered from a life-threatening stab wound to the leg while trying to break up a fight early Saturday morning. METRO/BOSTON.COM

Cops seek help in IDing assault suspects

Police at Bridgewater State University are asking for the public's help identifying two suspects who allegedly assaulted a student for writing a newspaper column supporting same-sex marriage.

The sketches of a male and female suspect were released yesterday as part of an ongoing investigation at the school following the attack on the female student last week near the school's Lower Great Hill-South parking lot and MBTA tunnel.

"Those convicted will be prosecuted and penalized to the maximum extent possible under Massachusetts General Law and the University's Code of Conduct," the university president, Dana Mohler-Faria, said in a letter sent out to students.

Members of the university's community are scheduled to rally around the victim today at 11 a.m., holding marches and speaking out against the violence, according to university spokesman Bryan Baldwin.

Baldwin said Mohler-Faria accepted an invitation to speak at the rally.

More than 370 people are planning to attend the march according to a Facebook page created for the event.

A reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the suspects.

STEVE ANNEAR

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Open. Frog Pond

▶ The Green Monster made sure that veterans didn't have to throw down any green to go skating yesterday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Local veterans skating on free ice

Boston Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster took to the ice yesterday, joining a group of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families on the Frog Pond for free skating. Hosted by the City of Boston, Red Sox Foundation, Massachusetts General Hospital and the Home Base Program, the event drew about 80 veterans and their families.

BU athlete faces sex assault charges

"My concern on a much larger level is that we have students on this campus who don't know how to treat each other. We have students who have been in situations where they are sexually assaulting others."
DEAN OF STUDENTS KENNETH ELMORE FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF NICASTRO

For the second time since December, a member of the Boston University Men's Hockey team has been charged with sexual assault.

According to a spokesperson from the Suffolk District Attorney's office, Max Nicastro, 21, is expected to be arraigned in Brighton District Court today to face charges stemming from an incident over the weekend.

Nicastro, a junior and defensive player for the BU Hockey team, was arrested by Boston University Police Sunday, according to university spokesman Colin Riley.

"[The university] took action immediately," he said.

The hockey star was taken into custody on the university's Charles River Campus around 6:30 a.m. and brought down to Boston Police District 14 in Brighton, where he was booked, according to reports.

BU Today reports that Nicastro was immediately suspended from the hockey team pending the investigation of the allegations.

BU Police Chief Thomas Robbins said that the sexual assault occurred on the school's campus.

No other information about the alleged assault was immediately available.

On Dec. 11, BU hockey star and top-scorer Corey Trivino, 21, of Toronto, was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a female student in a dorm room.

Trivino, who was kicked off of the hockey team, pleaded not guilty to charges in court and was released on his own recognizance.

$25K
According to reports, Nicastro was held on $25,000 cash bail.

STEVE ANNEAR
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New app helps you keep kosher for Passover

A new app aims to help consumers keep kosher throughout the eight-day Jewish festival and to stay up to date on kosher products throughout the rest of the year.

Released by the Orthodox Union, which promotes the values of the Orthodox Jewish community, the app called OU Kosher provides consumers with updates on products that have been certified by the OU, which is the world's largest kosher certification agency.

"The classic myth, even among secular Jews, is that the rabbi blesses the food. But the issue is not about blessing food. It's about the actual food that we're permitted to eat and the combinations of it," explained Gary Magder, director of digital media for the Orthodox Union. **REUTERS**

Thousands of young people make a good living with YouTube

▶ Regular Ordinary Swedish Mealtime is Sweden's most popular food show.

YouTube in a nutshell

- More than 4 billion views per day (up over 30 percent in the last eight months)
- 60 hours of video uploaded every minute (up 25 percent in the last eight months)
- 3 billion hours of video watched per month
- 800 million unique users visit YouTube each month
- 1 trillion views in 2011
- 500 years' worth of YouTube videos watched on Facebook per day
- 700 YouTube videos shared on Twitter per minute
- 600 million mobile views a day

One and a half years ago, Isak Anklew, a 23-year-old Swedish university student, bought a new smartphone. Because he wanted to try out the phone's video function, he made a clip of his friend Niclas Lundberg pretending to cook and posted it on YouTube. Today the men's channel, Regular Ordinary Swedish Mealtime, is Sweden's most popular food show; its top clip has been viewed more than four million times.

"We're not rock-star-famous," says Anklew. "We're another kind of famous. We can relate to regular people." Adds Lundberg, 24: "My biggest fear isn't that we'll stop making money on it. It's that people will be bored."

Today YouTube is no longer just a site where parents upload family videos. It's also a profit-making site where young (and not-so-young) talented people shoot to fame. "We want people to turn YouTube into a career," explains Sara Mormino, YouTube's Head of Partnerships. "YouTube won't replace TV, but it's an alternative. And unlike TV channels, it's a global platform. Anyone can used it to become popular." In other words: YouTube has discovered that there are lots of potential Justin Biebers out there, and that it can help them attain stardom — and make money on it.

Mormino's team selects YouTube's partners — users like Regular Ordinary Swedish Mealtime — and sells ads on their behalf. The revenue is split between YouTube and the partner; Marmino will say only that the artist gets the larger share. YouTube now has more than 30,000 partners in 14 countries; it recently launched the partner program in Russia and the Czech Republic.

Several years ago, French stand-up comedian Max Boublil posted video clips on YouTube "as a joke." Today, with videos watched more than 68 million times, he makes a good living as a YouTube star. "Young people don't watch TV any more", he observes. "This is the best way of connecting with them." Says Patrick Macharovsky, an 18-year-old Czech moviemaker, "If it wasn't for YouTube, nobody would notice me."

Despite the recession, the YouTube Partner program's revenues doubled in 2011, compared to 2010. And YouTube, now owned by Google, plans to keep expanding by adding more countries to the partner program this year. Recently Boublil, now 32, was given a role in a show on the French TV channel Canal+. "But I didn't feel comfortable on TV," he says. "YouTube creates a special link between the performer and the viewers, because they have to choose to see you."

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

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After World Cup, Qatar wants October Olympics

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A view of the museum of Islamic art and new high-rise office buildings and hotels, some of them still under construction, stand in the West Bay and Oneiza district in Doha, Qatar.

Qatar is proposing to hold the 2020 Olympics in October to avoid the Gulf Arab state's searing summer heat, maintaining that the proposed October dates would "ensure ideal conditions for athletes and spectators."

Details of the bid released yesterday show that Doha would like to stage the Olympics from Oct. 2-18 and the Paralympics from Nov. 4-15.

"October in Doha is not like July and August. I don't think heat will be an issue," Qatar Olympic Committee General Secretary Sheik Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told reporters in the Qatari capital.

Qatar, which will host the 2022 soccer World Cup, has tried to quell fears about summer temperatures that can soar to 50 degrees Celsius by promising air-conditioned stadiums. But many still call for the event to be held in winter.

Al Thani dismissed concerns that October Olympics date would conflict with the many other sporting events scheduled at that time, saying that eight years was plenty of time to adjust event calendars.

"If we agree on a date, everything can be adjusted," he said.

Qatar officials also said they would send female athletes to the Olympics for the first time. The IOC has offered Qatar wild card invitations for two female athletes to compete in London, swimmer Nada Arkaji and sprinter Noor al-Malki, Al Thani said, adding that the number could rise to four. **REUTERS**

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Apple woes open doors for tablet rivals in China

Apple Inc.'s legal row over its iPad trademark in China creates a window of opportunity for rivals such as Lenovo Group Ltd. and Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. as they try to chip away at the U.S. firm's dominance of the potentially vast Chinese tablet market.

Apple, the world's most valuable technology company, is fighting lawsuits brought by debt-laden Chinese electronics maker Proview Technology (Shenzhen), causing retailers and resellers in more than 10 Chinese cities to take iPads off their shelves, according to media reports.

Apple's iPad enjoys a huge lead over rival tablet PCs in China with a 76 percent share. Lenovo and Samsung trail a distant second and third with about 7 percent and 3 percent respectively, data from research firm IDC showed.

"Apple's loss could be Lenovo and Samsung's gains," said Jonathan Ng, an analyst with CIMB in Singapore.

Samsung likely has most to gain, because its Galaxy tablet competes in the same price segment as the iPad.

"Samsung will probably benefit more from Apple's ongoing lawsuit because both of them are after the same higher-end consumers given their price points," said Dickie Chang, an analyst from IDC in Hong Kong.

"The impact on Lenovo may be less because Lepads are lower-priced and aimed more at entry-level users." **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Apple's loss could be Lenovo and Samsung's gains."
JONATHAN NG, ANALYST WITH CIMB IN SINGAPORE

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Apple is fighting lawsuits brought by debt-laden Chinese electronics maker Proview Technology.

PAC filings show candidate funds raised and spent

Presidential campaigns and political action committees, or PACs, filed financial reports yesterday showing how much they had raised and spent as of Jan. 31.

The Federal Election Commission filings also offered a snapshot of who has been donating how much to the "Super PACs," which operate independently from campaigns and can raise unlimited amounts from individuals, corporations and unions.

These are some of the highlights of the FEC filings:
REUTERS

RESTORE OUR FUTURE

- Super PAC supporting Mitt Romney (Republican)
- **Raised:** $36.8 million
- **Spent:** $20.5 million
- **Cash on hand:** $16.3 million
- Heavily funded by the investment community, the super PAC received $1.25 million from prominent former hedge fund manager Julian Robertson at Tiger Management. He topped at least eight other $1 million contributors, including Houston builder Bob Perry.
- Harold Simmons, billionaire Dallas banker and a very active Republican donor, gave his first donation of $100,000 to the super PAC in January.

ENDORSE LIBERTY

- Super PAC supporting Ron Paul (Republican)
- **Raised:** $4 million
- **Spent:** $3.3 million
- **Cash on hand:** $60,181
- Much of the money came from PayPal co-founders Peter Thiel and Luke Nosek. Thiel, who donated a total of $2.6 million to the super PAC, is a billionaire venture capitalist and the first outside investor in Facebook.
- In January, the super PAC also attracted a number of large donors with military backgrounds, including members of the U.S. Army and Air Force, Navy veterans and engineers with Lockheed Martin and B/E Aerospace.

OUR DESTINY

- Super PAC supporting Jon Huntsman (Republican, ended campaign on Jan. 16)
- Raised: $3.3 million
- Spent: $3.2 million
- Cash on hand: $845
- The candidate's father, Jon Huntsman Sr, a billionaire industrialist, donated a total of $2.2 million to the PAC, including $335,000 in January. Another big donor last month was billionaire and television tycoon A. Jerrold Perenchio, who gave $100,000. He is a former chief executive of Univision, the largest U.S. Spanish-language broadcast company.

Carnival. Rose Monday

▶ Carnival performers attend the Rose Monday parade on Feb. 20, 2012 in Mainz, Germany.

RALPH ORLOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Rose Monday is the high point of the Carnival season, which traditionally runs from Epiphany until Ash Wednesday, and is celebrated in cities throughout the Rhine region of western Germany.

Crude oil advances to 9-month high on export halt

6.2%
Percent price increase of oil this year

NEW YORK. Oil rose to a nine-month high in New York after Iran said it halted some crude exports and investors bet that fuel demand will increase as Europe moves closer to bailing out Greece.

Futures climbed as much as 2.1 percent for a fourth day of gains, the longest rising streak since December. Iran will supply crude to "new customers" instead of companies in the U.K. and France, the oil ministry's news website, Shana, said, citing Alireza Nikzad Rahbar, a spokesman. Prices also advanced as European finance ministers prepared to meet to discuss a 130 billion-euro ($172 billion) aid package for Greece, the country's second rescue in less than two years.

"The heightened level of tension surrounding Iran's nuclear program continues to support prices, as does satisfactory growth in the U.S. and China," said Christopher Bellew, a senior broker at Jefferies Bache Ltd. in London, who correctly predicted last week that the price of Brent crude would advance to $120 a barrel. **BLOOMBERG**

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New war? Debate could be final decider

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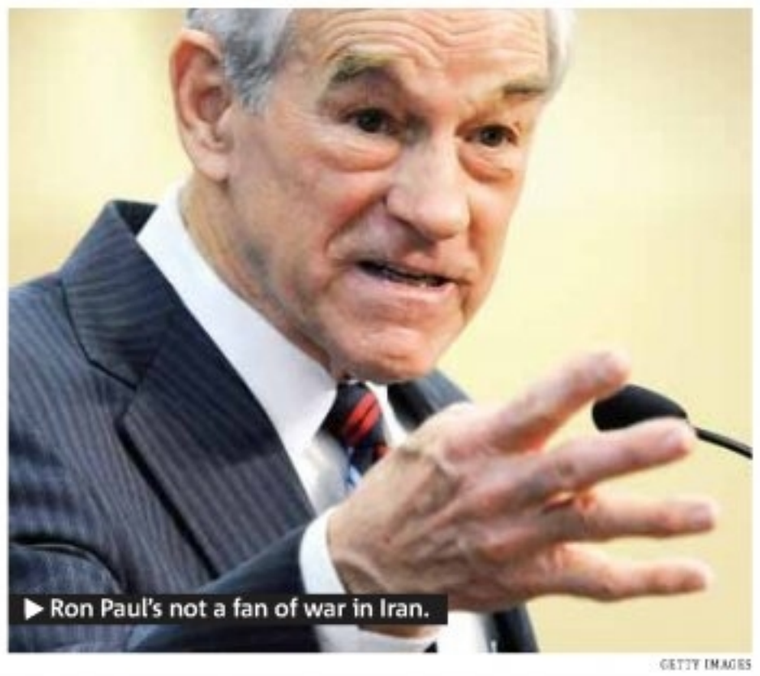
It is safe to predict that Ron Paul will once again be the sole voice of reason on Iran, when he debates the unashamedly hawkish Santorum, Romney and Gingrich in Arizona tomorrow.

But whether this trend will continue depends on the moderator, CNN's John King. Will he allow the debate to be framed by the dangerous propaganda that has pervaded much of the reporting on Iran, or can he force the candidates to confront surprising new intelligence on Iran that vindicates Ron Paul's pleas for restraint?

Sadly, the former scenario is far more likely. Even as the military-industrial complex continues to point its apocalyptic priapism at Iran, many in the media are sharing in the fluffing duties.

ABC's Diane Sawyer and Brian Ross claim to have evidence that Iran is waging "a kind of shadow war" around the world, and that "Jewish places of worship in at least 10 U.S. cities have been told they could be targets." Not only do they neglect to mention who exactly is issuing these warnings, turns out that the "evidence" they claim to have is nothing more than the speculative accusations of Israeli officials, who have blamed three recent bombings in Georgia, Thailand and India on Iran. Sawyer and Ross also fail to mention that, according to official investigators of the India bombing, the evidence appears to implicate a Sunni group within India that is completely unconnected to Iran.

Similarly, NBC News' Jim Miklaszewski boldly proclaims that the U.S. will be "the world's first line of defense," now that "Iran has already threatened to shut down the Strait of Hormuz," and "Iranian leaders have threatened all-out war!" To his credit, Miklaszewski at least mentions in passing that Iran has "threatened all-out war" only if Israel were to drop bombs on its nuclear facilities, and that Iran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz only in response to U.S. economic sanctions. What Miklaszewski doesn't bother explaining is that these economic sanctions would involve cutting Iran off from the international banking system, through which it receives payment for its oil exports — a devastating blow to its economy.



▶ Ron Paul's not a fan of war in Iran.

GETTY IMAGES

But most importantly — he fails to mention that the U.S. military does not actually know whether Iran is trying to build a nuclear weapon.

That's right — on Feb. 5, U.S. Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, told Congress that Iran has not yet made the decision to "go ahead with a nuclear weapon." And this weekend, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told CNN that "a military strike against Iran would be premature, because it is unclear that Tehran will actually use its nuclear capabilities to build an atomic bomb."

If this news surprises you, you aren't alone. According to a CNN poll from 2010, 71 percent of Americans mistakenly believe that Iran already has nuclear weapons. But instead of seeing this as a rallying cry to correct the dangerous misperceptions of ill-informed Americans, many in the media instead choose to push the false narrative that war with Iran is becoming ever more inevitable.

One can only hope that John King will do his best to prevent Romney, Santorum and Gingrich from perpetuating that false sense inevitability in tomorrow's debate.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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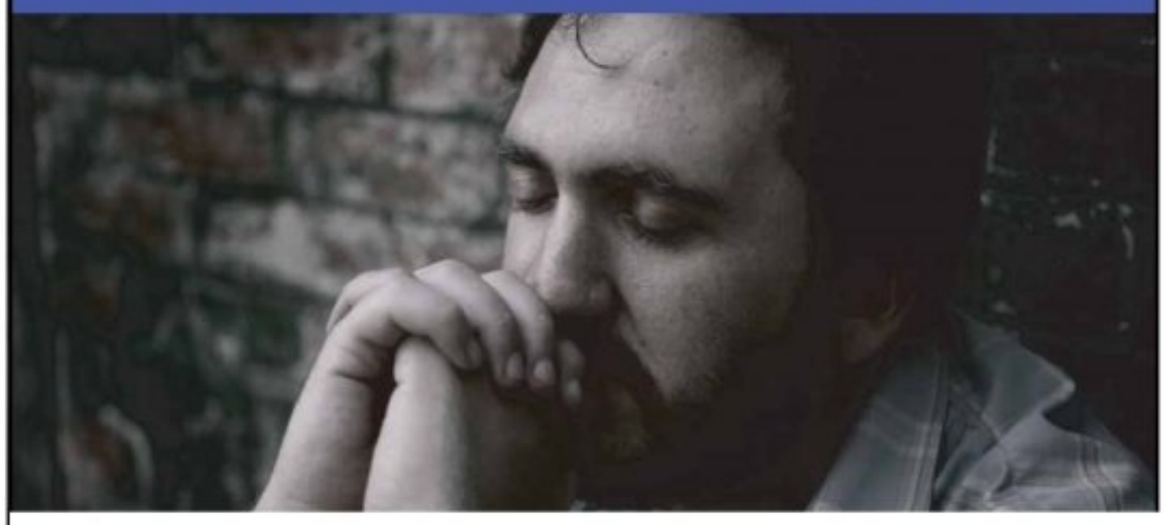

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Houston items go up on the auction block

▶ A fan takes a photograph at the new grave site of singer Whitney Houston yesterday in Westfield, N.J.

Well, that was quick. She was just buried on Saturday, but the vultures are already circling: It was announced on Sunday that a black velvet dress, a vest and a pair of earrings **Whitney Houston** wore in "The Bodyguard" will be put up for auction next month in California.

According to celebrity auctioneer **Darren Julien**, Houston's "Bodyguard" items became available after her death on Feb. 11.

"It proves a point that these items, they're an investment," Julien told The Associated Press. "You buy items just like a stock. Buy at the right time and sell at the right time, and they just increase in value."

Though those words may sound crudely opportunistic, it's quite the contrary, says Julien: "It's a celebration of her life. If you hide these things in fear that you're going to offend someone — her life is to be celebrated. These items are historic now that she passed."

Point taken. But her death is already so tragic. Can't we have an appropriate amount of time to mourn before everyone starts to profit off of her — say, a week?

PHOTOS | GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lohan

Lohan to actually work?

Lindsay Lohan is set to host "Saturday Night Live" on March 3, but the gig didn't come without a fair amount of begging and pleading, according to TMZ. Sources say that with her community service nearly complete, the troubled actress is hoping to kick-start her career comeback. To that end, Lohan reached out to the show's executive producer, **Lorne Michaels**, suggesting that she appear on the program. This will be Lohan's fourth time hosting "SNL." And I know you will be tuning in for all of the wrong reasons.

Talking points

Biel flashes ring

Jessica Biel joined fiance **Justin Timberlake** for the "Saturday Night Live" after-party over the weekend after his cameo appearance on the comedy show, and all eyes were reportedly on the sparkling rock on her finger, according to Us Weekly. "Jessica was showing off her ring," a source says. The happy couple have kept fairly mum about their recent reconciliation and engagement, but they apparently weren't holding back at the party. "They were very lovey, holding hands," another source says. "They kissed a few times in front of the crew."

Madonna eulogizes Houston

While she didn't attend **Whitney Houston**'s funeral in Newark, N.J., **Madonna** found her own way to memorialize the fallen singer while out at a New York City nightclub with some of her backup dancers, according to Us Weekly. "Madonna was sitting down, watching as her dancers showed their skills," a source says. "When the DJ began to spin Whitney Houston's 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody,' Madonna perked up and started lip-synching the words."

Dench is losing her vision

Dame Judi Dench admits that she's been battling macular degeneration, an eye condition that's causing the 77-year-old to lose her vision. "I can't read scripts any more because of the trouble with my eyes," she tells the Daily Mirror. "And so somebody comes in and reads them to me, like telling me a story." But Dench, who's undergoing treatment for the condition, doesn't have any plans to give up acting. "If I retire, nothing will work any more, and it's hard enough as it is."

▶ Dench

Wahlberg: Pain for his kids

Mark Wahlberg has found an effective way to deter his kids from getting tattoos: bringing them along to his painful tattoo-removal sessions. "I don't want my kids getting tattoos. And I wanted them to be [removed] by the time I did 'The Fighter,' because putting makeup on and covering them up has always been a pain in the butt," Wahlberg told the "Today" show. "I've taken my two older kids to the procedure so they see how painful it is and what I have to go through."

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Dana Delany is not an easy traveler, Jimmy Kimmel is getting tired of Twitter, Margaret Cho needs some laundry advice and Steve Martin is making a startling discovery.

@DanaDelany
Packing makes me anxious. I hate limiting my choices.

@jimmykimmel
OK, I get it - everyone on Twitter is clever - enough already...

@margaretcho
Should I put wet underwear in microwave?

@SteveMartinToGo
Found small Chinese person inside my iPhone. Apple needs to address working conditions.

Delany

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2. Kristen Wiig sported this zippy number to the East Coast Writer's Guild Awards on Sunday. Yes, they really did have two separate ceremonies.

Welcome to the jungle, Tuesday edition

1. On Thursday, **Justin Timberlake** and **Matt Damon** hit up the private Guns N' Roses gig at the Hiro Ballroom in New York, sponsored by DeLeon Tequila and Nur Khan Electronic Sessions.

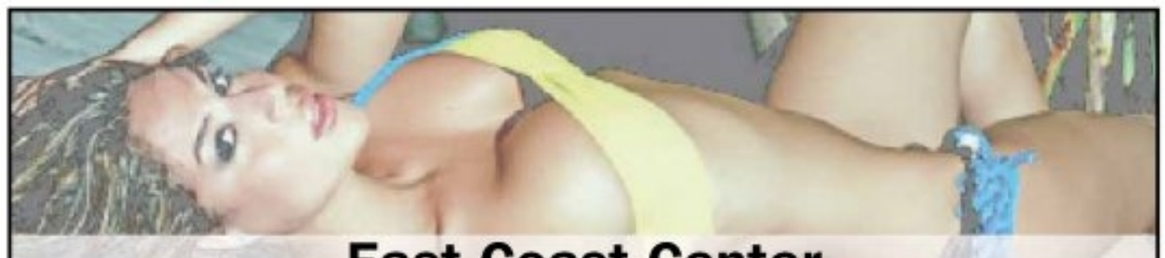
3. Kelly Rowland performed at the Keep Memory Alive foundation's Power of Love Gala celebrating Muhammad Ali's 70th birthday in Las Vegas on Saturday.

4. Christina Hendricks and **Dame Vivienne Westwood** at the afterparty for Westwood during London Fashion Week on Sunday.

5. Controversial chanteuse **Lana Del Rey** made an appearance at London's Fashion Week.

6. Ed Helms got some hang time with the Lorax at the movie's premiere in Los Angeles on Sunday.

7. Shorty after his ex-wife Whitney Houston's funeral, **Bobby Brown** soldiered on with a New Edition show at Mohegan Sun on Saturday.



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Interview with the vampire (writer)

Anne Rice built a career writing about the bloodthirsty creatures before you'd even heard of Edward and Bella Now, it's all about the werewolf

Anne Rice's latest follows a young journalist living in San Francisco who gets bitten by the mystical furry beast.

MATTHIAS SCHEER

"The Wolf Gift," the newest novel from Anne Rice, queen of supernatural stories, hit shelves last week. We spoke with the author about her influences, thought process and the TV hunk who inspired her newest hero.

Do you think werewolves are the new "It" monster?
I don't know, I was actually told before I wrote this that they were done. They said that there were so many werewolves running around in "True Blood" and "Twilight" that it was old hat now. Of course, that didn't stop me. I thought, "I'm going to do it my way."

That seems to have worked for you over your career.
I think that the best thing that anybody can do is write the books you want to read. Write the person you're obsessed with and write the hero you want to be and go to bed with. With me right now, I thought, "What about the werewolf? What if he was conscious during the transformation and he became a heroic being?" I wanted to investigate him my way.

I heard you got the idea for this book from the producer of the TV show "White Collar."
That is true. I e-mailed Jeff Eastin because I'm a big fan of the show. We have an e-mail friendship going. And he said that he'd watched a documentary on werewolves and if I ever wanted to do a werewolf novel, he would buy buckets of it. Most of the time when people mention werewolves, I would say, "No, my sister's done that and I don't want to crowd her." Then I got to thinking, "Well, Alice has been gone since 2007. I miss her terribly, but maybe it's OK now, five years later, to write about werewolves."

And I read that you based the main character of this book on the star of "White Collar," Matt Bomer. Have you ever met him?
Nope.

Does he know he's inspired a character in your book?
I don't know. I should send him a copy! Jeff knows. I just acknowledge Matt as the physical model: Matt's voice, Matt's eyes. I always do this with books — many times I have a model. When I wrote "The Witching Hour," the model was Tom Berenger. I mean, anything can inspire a character. With Matt, it was his beauty, his voice, his quiet manner, all of that from "White Collar."

You took some time away from the monster genre to write about your faith. Did being away from this topic change how you write about it now?
I felt it did. I felt that the challenges I faced in writing the two "Christ the Lord" novels taught me a lot about the craft of writing. In those novels, I was really writing about Jesus as we know about him from the Gospel, and I had never tried that before. I hadn't tried to make a character fit with any history. I learned a lot. I think it strengthened me as a writer.

Will this be the first of many wolf books from you?
I'm sure it will be, but I'm writing another supernatural novel right now. I'm back to supernatural fiction, and I feel that I'm back to talking about good and evil and questions of meaning and belief. I'm happy to be back.

Q&A

Out of all the TV shows with supernatural creatures, what's your favorite?
The show that I really like is "Once Upon A Time." I think that show uses imagination and the fairy tale motif in the best way possible.

The reason I love it is it's really rooted in character. I'm not really interested in the typical formula of "Let's hunt the supernatural monster," or "We're the only ones who know the world is infested with supernatural monsters, so let's kill them." That, to me, is just cop show stuff. I don't care about that. I want to know about the heart and soul of that monster.

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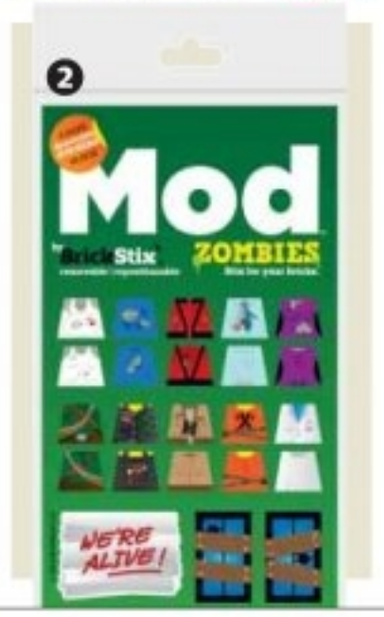
Toy Fair 2012: What your kids will be clamoring for this year

We must say — toys have changed a lot since we were kids. Check out some of the hottest new playthings we found at the 109th annual American International Toy Fair.

1 Playmobil Take Along Soccer Match: It's like foosball, on the go! This fold-up game comes with six athlete figures who can kick and score just like real soccer stars. Kids can maneuver the goalies to defend incoming shots, too. ***Ages 5-10, $60, www.playmobilusa.com, available in April***



2 Mod stickers by Brickstix: Kids love to use their imagination when building with blocks — and now, they can make their creations even more true-to-life with these stickers, which easily attach and detach (with no residue) to Legos and other brick sets. Brickstix was conceived by 9-year-old Greyson MacLean when he became frustrated with the conventional stickers that came with his toy sets. He's since won a slew of toy inventor awards and even appeared on "Conan." ***Ages 6 and up, $6, www.brickstix.com, now available***

3 Lazer Tag: Turn that once-every-so-often trip to the laser tag arena into an at-home activity with this hi-tech digital system. Your kids can download the game's free software onto their iPhones, slap their phones into the Lazer Tag blaster and begin shooting baddies through the lens of their new virtual reality. ***Ages 8 and up, $70 for two blasters, www.hasbrotoyshop.com, available in August***

4 Twister Dance: Twister's undergone some changes since we last shouted "left foot blue." Here, the pods are off the mat, so you can take the game wherever you go. Players can also groove to songs by Britney Spears and use the speaker as an iPod dock. ***Ages 8 and up, $35, www.hasbro.com, available in the fall***

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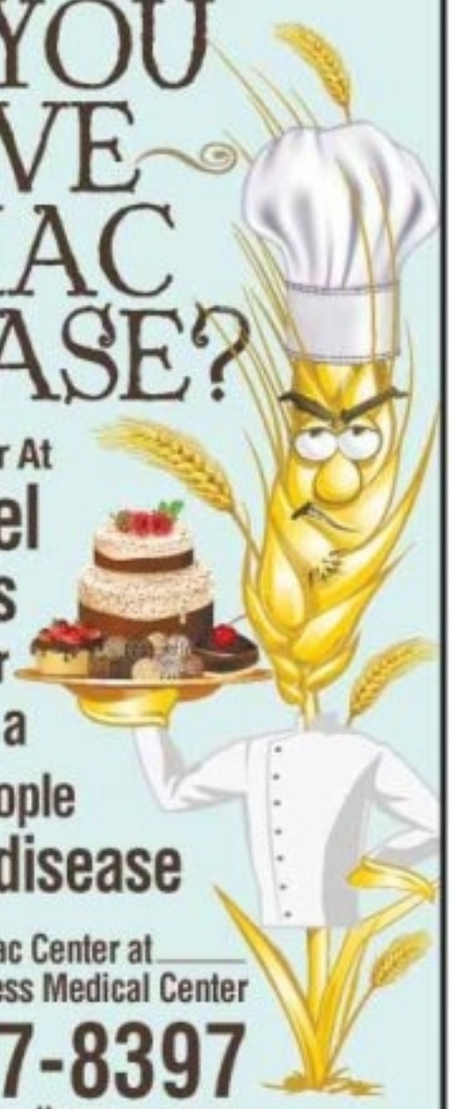

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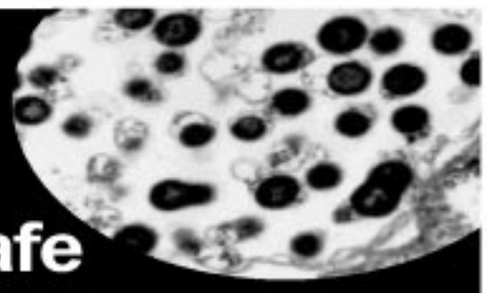

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Beauty talk with Peter Philips

The creative director of Chanel makeup opens up about his spring 2012 collection, 'Spring Harmony'
He talks sunsets, sparkles, plastic bag handles and why it is people go crazy for Le Vernis nail color

The inspiration behind his spring 2012 collection: "I chose spring horizons [at] sunset and sunrise, as it can be the most amazing moment of the day. I was afraid it would be a bit kitschy, mellow and corny but it's also very beautiful. You can do anything you want with the products in the collection, whether you want to look sophisticated and intense or fresh and funky."

Introducing the latest Le Vernis nail trilogy: April, May and June: "The most classical shade and the first to be released is April. Spring is coming, but you're still in a wintry mood, so you want a darker shade that's flattering and not too flashy. May is pink-y and girlie, and June has a beach-y feel to it. People will have gotten a bit of sun and color on their skin and can start wearing brighter colors. ... The shades are anticipated not because of me, but because they're Chanel. I have the advantage that I can link my creations with the fashion show — it gives them a reason to exist."

Philips

His love of sparkles: "I don't have a favorite color, I adore makeup in general. I love a good skin-tone beige and anything sparkly and dramatic."

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Philips' Top 3 tips:

Invest in an eyelash curler: "All women should have an eyelash curler. This also applies to women who don't wear makeup. It's not a dangerous tool, although a lot of people are terrified of it. One pinch to the lashes can work miracles as it opens up your eyes and makes you look fresh and awake. Add some mascara, and you're ready to go."

Apply just the right amount: "It's a criminal offense to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence. Something that always looks wrong is not blending your foundation in so that you can see the line between the face and the neck. It's so easy to avoid: Blend it out with your fingers and check the lighting in your bathroom."

Blush Horizon de Chanel

Remember, makeup can't fix everything: "Every phase of your life has beauty in it. We all want youth, but at some point we have to realize that we're getting older and it's not all about foundation or mascara. If you eat and live wrong, it will have an impact on your looks. You know the tricks: Eat more vegetables, stop smoking, drink water and cut back on alcohol."

On color

"It took 24 tries in the lab before we got the right shade for Le Vernis in June. I wanted it to be the color of this plastic bag handle I got from some random shop in the States. The bag was black and the handle was this beautiful orange plastic. It had to be that exact shade, but in lacquer. It had to look just like the plastic, not transparent or pearly."

Le Vernis nail color trilogy

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There are a number of things to consider before balancing your career with classes.

Sometimes the secret to getting ahead at the office is getting out of the office. Hitting the books can help you become an expert in your field, expedite that promotion or open the door to new endeavors. For those with the itch to learn we've got some pointers to start you out right.

Consider the up-front money

"Always remember that continued education is an investment," explains Steve Herzog, assistant dean at The American College in Bryn Mawr. "Carefully consider the amount of money you'll spend and the likelihood you can reap the financial rewards in a reasonable amount of time."

But before running the numbers, check in with the boss. If your company is able to provide tuition reimbursement, nothing's stopping you from moving forward.

Make sure the program is accredited

For many employers, an accredited school can make all the difference. "Some employers simply don't recognize degrees from non-accredited schools, and credits from non-accredited courses are often non-transferable to other institutions," says Cheri Varnadoe, director of corporate relations at MBA@UNC, an online program from UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Know your style

If you're employed full-time, online courses may help with time management. "Online options can keep you be productive at work while also giving you the education you need," says Dr. Sally Mounts, president of Auctus Consulting Group. That said, it's important to consider how you learn. Steve Herzog recommends asking yourself: "Do you do well in classroom settings, or does reading and listening to pre-recorded lectures best suit you?"

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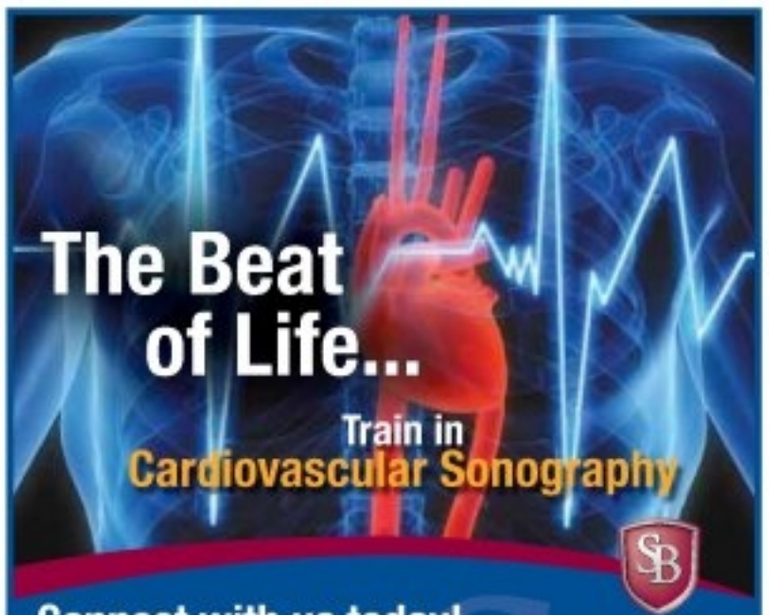

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myeducation

Facebook finding its place in the classroom

Professors use the website to connect and interact with plugged-in students ◗ It can even be valuable for assignments ◗ But other sites are effective for sharing information, too — and don't include party photos

Since the dawn of Facebook, colleges have encouraged professors to interact with students on the site, especially in business schools. In that time, the nuances of classroom Facebook use have begun to emerge: the positives, pitfalls and limitations.

"There was a time a few years ago where I was having students add me as a friend, but when I saw pictures of them binge drinking, passed out next to kegs, I decided maybe that wasn't such a wise decision," says Charles Wankel, who teaches management at St. John's College and is the author of "Cutting-edge Social Media Approaches to Business Education." "But I imagine an instructor could adjust the privacy setting, so they could share classroom items and not inadvertently see the other stuff."

DIGITAL VISION

▶ Facebook makes connecting with undergrads easier for some professors.

Wankel still assigns a number of Facebook-based assignments, but now uses LinkedIn to connect students to each other and networking opportunities.

"I don't think it's a good thing to require students to be on Facebook. But it can be helpful if the population of students is already there," says Steven L. Johnson, professor of management systems at Temple University. "I find master's students just aren't interested in communicating on Facebook. But undergrads live in a post-e-mail world, so Facebook definitely helps reinforce things."

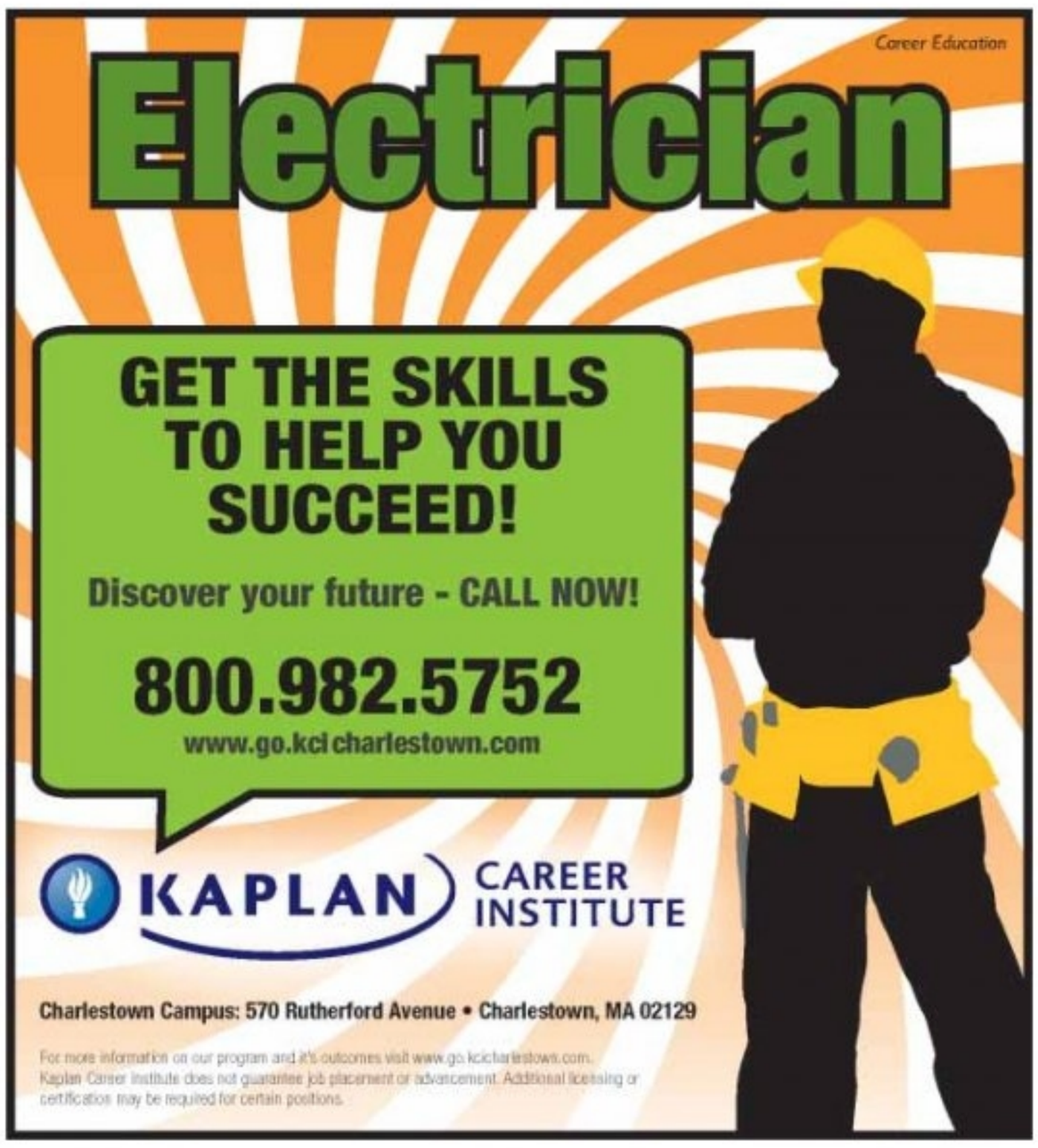
BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Meeting today's students in their world

Both Wankel and Johnson use a number of other online connectors with their students, and say blogging sites like Wordpress and Blogspot are more effective for posting core class information, like syllabuses and assigned reading.

▶ **"As educators we can take the stance that students are going to do what we tell them. Or, we can take a stance that says we want every student to do as well as possible, and we'll meet them where they are," says Johnson. "If we take the second approach, part of that is recognizing that students — just like any person — have different preferences about what communication channels they want to use."**

"Undergrads live in a post-e-mail world, so Facebook definitely helps reinforce things."
STEVEN L. JOHNSON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Funny business

A sense of humor at work can go a long way for both morale and your career Why you might want to make a joke — or at least laugh at one

As you craft your next résumé, consider adding some comedy to the skills inventory. A recent national survey from Accountemps staffing service reports the majority of CFOs value an employee's sense of humor for fitting into the company's corporate culture. "All work, no play can really erode having the levity. Building rapport among colleagues reduces stress and tension," says career expert Christine Endres.

In today's rocky job economy, a little humor can go a long way. But when do jokes lose the laughs? Endres shares four tips for exercising workplace-appropriate humor:

Don't play favorites

"Never make anyone specifically the person of target within a joke. Poke fun at yourself if you single someone out."

Check your tone

"Steer clear of any heavy-handed sarcasm, because it can be viewed as a subtle way of insulting someone. Workplace humor should be low-key or even understated."

Actively participate

"Even if you're not necessarily the funniest person, keep the mood light by being receptive to other people's humor — laugh with the group."

Keep the pranks in the closet

"To still be taken seriously, don't clown around too much. You don't want to be the stand-up comic, so practical jokes are always a bad idea."

DIGITAL VISION

▶ Go ahead — smile at work.

Troubleshooting

"If you've accidentally offended your co-worker, a sincere, in-person apology can go a long way," says Endres. "Be mindful not to cross that boundary again."

A time and a place

Endres notes the difference between a cubicle community and an interview room. Before you get the company thumbs-up: "Be mindful during the actual job interview. You don't have to crack jokes. You don't need to be a comedian. Be natural in ways that let your personality shine through," she says.

TIFFANY KANG
letters@metro.us

Many opportunities in a counseling career

Shannon Hodges, an associate professor of counseling at Niagara University, is one of few people to investigate the many careers in the field. His latest book, "101 Careers in Counseling," is available now for preorder by Springer Publishing Company and will be officially released in March.

Why was it important for you to compile so many occupations in the field of counseling?
When I went into counseling, I had no idea there were all these different options. Yes, most people who get a [graduate] degree in counseling work in inpatient and outpatient settings, dealing with mental health issues. But there is so much more out there: You can counsel in a foreign country. You can do personal coaching. You might be working in a synagogue, church or mosque, doing spiritual-based counseling. There's at least 101 options.

665,500
Number of people employed as counselors in the U.S. as of 2008, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics

$37,000
Median salary for these positions

What's the difference between a counselor and a psychologist?
Counselors and psychologists are both often referred to as therapists. The difference is in training: The primary focus of a graduate degree in counseling is counseling, although you will get other psychological training. Clinical psychologists will get some training in counseling, but that will not be their primary focus.

What kind of student should consider a career in counseling?
People that go into this field tend to be idealistic, service-oriented and like helping people in need.

How has the field changed since you began your career in 1985?
The number of professional counselors has exploded. One reason is that there's not the same stigma that used to be behind counseling.

Are there job opportunities to match the number of counselors?
Here at Niagara University, our placement rate for getting jobs in the field is way above 90 percent. That's not unique to this program, either.

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

WAVEBREAK MEDIA

▶ Jobs have increased because there is no longer the same stigma associated with therapy.

Know the facts

According to the American Counseling Association, counseling is defined as: "A professional relationship that empowers diverse individuals, families and groups to accomplish mental health wellness and career goals."

In the United States, counseling licensure is administered at the state level. When considering a graduate level degree, it is important to know in which states this degree will allow you to practice. A full list of state requirements can be ordered through the American Counseling Association at www.counseling.org.

Education news

Student suspended for writing about professor crush

A student at Oakland University was suspended after turning in a journal for a writing class that held his explicit thoughts about his female professors. According to Inside Higher Education, Joseph Corlett had several entries that described the physical characteristics of his professors, including the woman who taught his writing class.

One entry, titled "Hot For Teacher," went into detail about one of his professors while also writing about how much he'd been drinking before beginning his notes.

His racy writings have been posted online by Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, which is advocating for Corlett, who is 56, to be reinstated. Corlett was suspended for three semesters and advised to seek counseling if he hopes to return. CASSANDRA GARRISON

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Letters

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Re: 'Who decides religion's role in American life'

Is it not because of your bias that you distorted the facts today by not reporting why student Sandra Fluke was not qualified to sit on the Oversight Committee? Is it not bias that has you distorting the story by suggesting the panelist were there to discuss "birth control and menstrual cramps"? The panel was all representatives of religious organizations. Not students. Yes, it would have been nice to have a female religious rep there. The panel was addressing the issue of the government and religious freedom, not menstrual cramps. Distort much to serve your bias? I think so. Thank you for proving your bias so quickly.

DEL CONNOR, VIA E-MAIL

Like it or not there are times federal law must trump religious sensibilities, otherwise you would soon see a serious breakdown in civil society. For example, doctors and nurses refuse to use particular procedures or medications due to their personal religious beliefs, even if it saves a patient's life. This doesn't mean federal policy can't be worked in ways that respect people's religious beliefs, but in the end we all need to play by the same rules — the faithful included.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

There could be a lot of people without insurance if this legislation goes through. The Catholic Church is one of the biggest providers of health care and employer of these. They cannot go against the doctrines and that would mean they would not offer health insurance to their employees because of conscience.

MARIANNE HURLEY, VIA E-MAIL

Houston, we still have a problem

Should the flag only be half-mast for those who died that were in public service or who died in service to their country? Or should it at the discretion of the governors who decide to whom they want to extend the honor? I don't understand those who are outraged at Gov. Christie for honoring Whitney Houston with a half-mast. It is Christie's choice, it is not illegal, and he is well within his rights. To Christie, her accomplishments, including handing over all the proceeds from her memorable rendition of our national anthem to the 9/11 responders, far outweighed her human frailty.

EKENG MANCZUK, VIA E-MAIL

OK, seriously, stop it with the Whitney Houston business. She's no hero, not immortal, nor will she ever be. While her music may have been inspiring and it's a tragic story, she made her choices. I feel sorry for her family. Stop treating her any differently than anyone else just because she sang. I doubt you treat everyday people battling demons with such compassion. **RACHAEL G., VIA E-MAIL**

Chris Brown: Let's not forget victims

To those who'd defend Chris Brown, who continues to use his fame to harass women: I wonder if you'd still defend him if it was you or someone else you're close to who spent months recovering from an injury caused by someone you supposedly loved. But you probably never thought about that. **BONNIE PARKER, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It's important to begin elevating your sights a bit if you see that the cycle you're now entering holds tremendous promise. Don't waste the good times on frivolous activities.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** The chances for accomplishing your objectives look good, though you'll have to bring other people in on the action. Interesting things could happen that'll bring fulfillment.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Because you'll be able to recognize some of the signals, a situation unfolding at this time could enable you to share in some benefits already being generated by another person.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** An arrangement that you mastermind should prove advantageous for everyone involved. It has all the essential elements needed for success: fairness, integrity and unity.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you get the chance — and you probably will — do what you can to strengthen bonds involving two of your more significant relationships. You could bring about happy changes for all.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Someone of the opposite gender that you recently met is eager to get to know you. If you are of the same mind-set, don't hesitate to respond in kind.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you've been putting forth your very best effort where your work or career is concerned, a promotion, bonus or some kind of acknowledgement may be in the offing.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When it comes to an enterprise or endeavor that you personally manage or in which you play some kind of leadership role, your luck could take a well-deserved change for the better.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Starting right now, there is a strong probability that you could experience a favorable shift in your material affairs. Be alert for what occurs, because it can have a long-range effect.

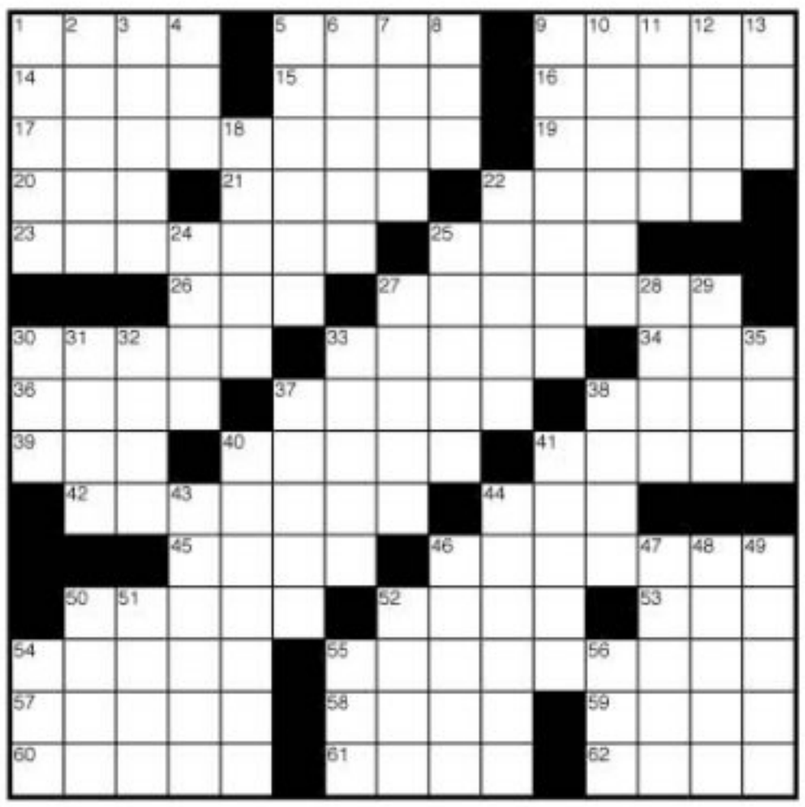
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Do not look to others for leadership in an endeavor that you need to accomplish, especially if they have little knowledge of what you want or how you want it done.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** New life can be breathed into an arrangement that you've been seriously thinking of writing off. If you check out every possibility, you might find now is not the time to call it quits.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** A relationship that you recently established might greatly help you advance some plans for the future that you've had in the back of your mind. It pays to listen to everyone.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Swing a sickle
5 Helicon
9 String quartet member
14 __ mater
15 Ever's partner
16 Merger
17 "In Xanadu did __ __ ..."
19 Small pleasure
20 Ancient Tokyo
21 Luau welcomes
22 Flat-tasting
23 Kind of computer
25 Golf hazard
26 Lightning by-product
27 Palmed off
30 Thunderclaps
33 Ocean's motions
34 Popeye's Olive __
36 Be a party to
37 Bundle
38 Type of socks
39 Asphalt
40 Many a newspaper
41 __ nova
42 Called from the Tyrol
44 Early jazz
45 Norse royal name
46 Charming
50 Illustrious
52 Sweetheart
53 Aunt or bro.
54 Modernize a yacht
55 Greek or Roman
57 Founder of sci-fi
58 Unadulterated
59 Cartoon chipmunk
60 Lost a lap
61 More, to some
62 Org.



Down
1 Played croupier
2 Avoid capture
3 Pulpits
4 Close companion
5 Hire (2 wds.)
6 Square
7 Pythons or wraps
8 Abby's sister
9 Pirate's sword
10 Transported
11 Legal claim
12 Mutual fund charge
13 Sudbury's prov.
18 Choir members
22 Fleeting
24 Laird's attire
25 Currently
27 Handle, as questions
28 Long, long time
29 Tints
30 Greet Rover
31 Auction site
32 Flight prefix
33 Pilferer
35 Grassy expanse
37 Kind of bar
38 Keystone __
40 Struck out
41 Employee's reward
43 Hooded cloak
44 Prejudices
46 Holds up well
47 Black-and-white whales
48 Sit-down occasions
49 DeGeneres sitcom
50 Yard contents
51 Huge hairstyle
52 Visibly cold
54 Campers, for short
55 Mil. rank
56 NW state

		3					5	9
6				3				
7				2	1	6		
	9		5			8		
1		5	8		2	4		3
		6			7		1	
		7	1	6				2
				8				4
2	4					1		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		7	3					9
3	8		4	6		7		
4			7				3	
							7	3
	3	9				2	8	
8	7							
	6				8			4
		3		7	4		2	8
1					2	6		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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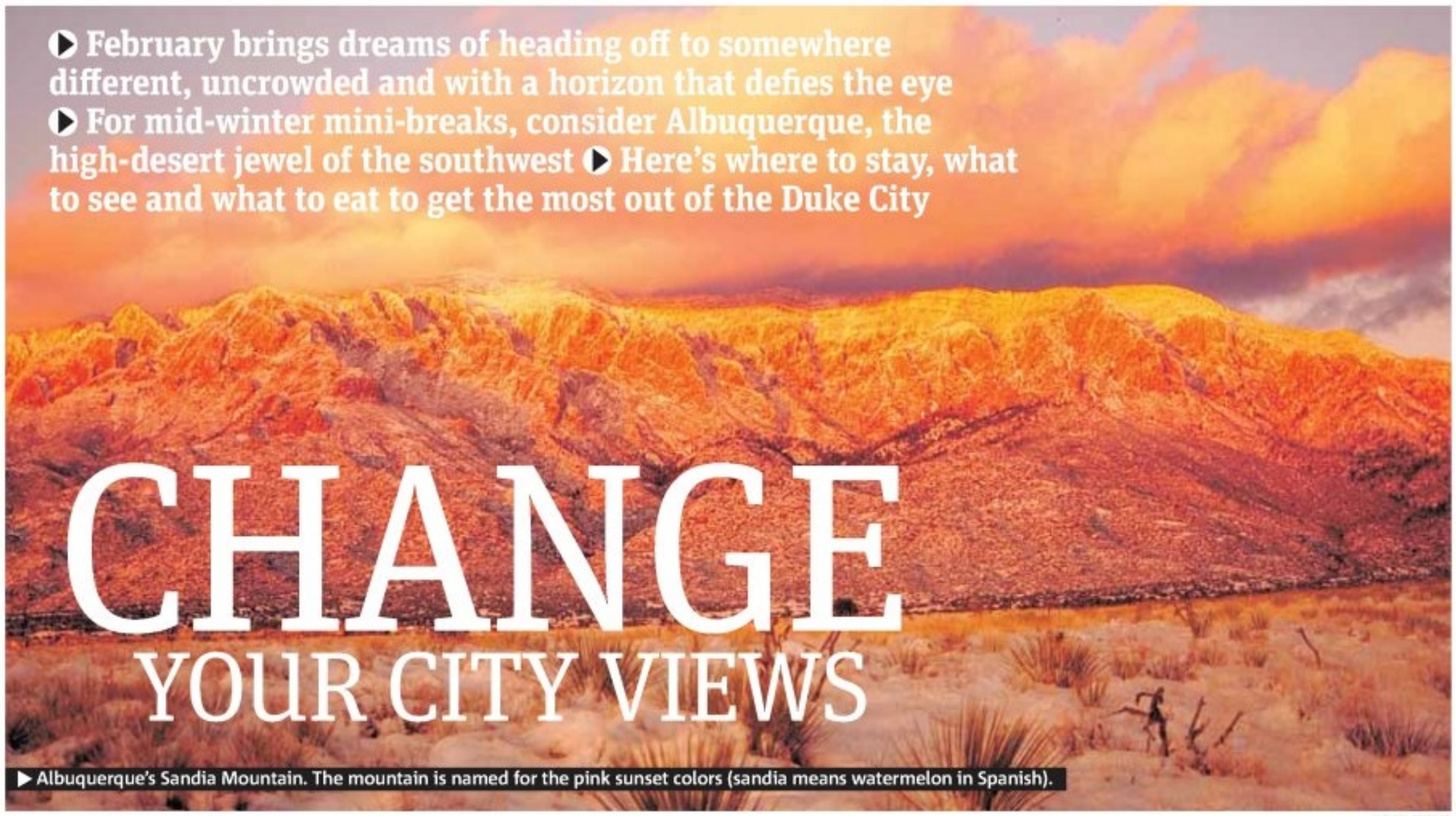
February brings dreams of heading off to somewhere different, uncrowded and with a horizon that defies the eye ◗ For mid-winter mini-breaks, consider Albuquerque, the high-desert jewel of the southwest ◗ Here's where to stay, what to see and what to eat to get the most out of the Duke City

CHANGE YOUR CITY VIEWS



▶ Albuquerque's Sandia Mountain. The mountain is named for the pink sunset colors (sandia means watermelon in Spanish).

JAY BLACKWOOD

WWW.RIPMALONE.COM

▶ Visit the Bio Park to see a variety of specimens.

Where to go

If you have kids, Albuquerque is home to a number of fine museums, including the delightfully deadpan and unique **National Museum of Nuclear Science & History** (601 Eubank Blvd. SE), which is kind of like a companion piece to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, only filled with deactivated missiles. Less fusion-powered is the **Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum** (9201 Balloon Museum Dr. NE), which is logically located next to the site of the world-famous annual Balloon Fiesta. **The ABQ BioPark complex** encompasses the city's zoo, aquarium and botanic gardens, which spotlight the indigenous flora and fauna.

Pack your gloves

First, a note for the map-challenged: New Mexico and Arizona are not only different states, but they have vastly different climates. So you shouldn't expect Albuquerque to feel like Phoenix in the dead of winter. The city's elevation ranges between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level, and the air can be parchingly dry. Winter temperatures are in the 40s to 50s range, and can be sub-freezing at night. Yes, it snows (which means you can go skiing if you drive about four hours north). Pack gloves.

Where to stay

In addition to all the usual chain hotels (with rooms available for less than $100 per night), Albuquerque features dozens of homey bed and breakfasts for the traveler who'd like a green-chile omelet included in his or her room charge. In the Old Town area, the **Bottger Mansion** (110 San Felipe St NW) dates from 1910 while the **Casa de Suenos** (310 Rio Grande Blvd. SW) offers individual, private guest houses.

SARA BRADY
letters@metro.us

What to eat

Everything, if possible. The state's distinctive cuisine is based around local chiles, which range from tongue-tingling to face-melting. For a large-scale dining experience visit **El Pinto** (10500 Fourth St. NW), which resembles nothing so much as a southwestern Tavern on the Green on steroids. The restaurant, which has catered more than one White House Cinco de Mayo celebration, is justifiably famous for its tamales, a New Mexico Christmas tradition. For a quick breakfast, stop by **Golden Crown Panaderia**

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(1103 Mountain Rd. NW) for empanadas, green chile bread and half a dozen varieties of the official state cookies, biscochitos. Wherever you go, we recommend smuggling home as much local salsa and chile sauce as you can fit in your suitcase.

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7-Day Europe $429* Fr. pp — Ocean View $649* Fr. pp, Balcony $769* Fr. pp
7-Day Bahamas $444* Fr. pp — Ocean View $529* Fr. pp, Balcony $679* Fr. pp
7-Day Bermuda $459* Fr. pp — Ocean View $549* Fr. pp, Balcony $739* Fr. pp
9-Day Caribbean $689* Fr. pp — Ocean View $779* Fr. pp, Balcony $1109* Fr. pp

Royal Caribbean International — Receive FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities plus up to $100 Onboard Credit on select sailings
7-Day Bermuda $494* Fr. pp — Ocean View $644* Fr. pp, Balcony $789* Fr. pp
7-Day Europe $594* Fr. pp — Ocean View $889* Fr. pp, Balcony $1179* Fr. pp
7-Day Alaska $644* Fr. pp — Ocean View $778* Fr. pp, Balcony $1114* Fr. pp
10-Day Caribbean $889* Fr. pp — Ocean View $1104* Fr. pp, Balcony $1449* Fr. pp

Holland America Line — Receive up to $125 Onboard Credit, Free Dining, Wine or Champagne plus up to $500 Back on select sailings
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7-Day Bermuda $589* Fr. pp — Ocean View $689* Fr. pp, Balcony $979* Fr. pp
7-Day Alaska $599* Fr. pp — Ocean View $699* Fr. pp, Balcony $1999* Fr. pp
10-Day Panama $699* Fr. pp — Ocean View $799* Fr. pp, Balcony $999* Fr. pp

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11-Day Hawaii $894* Fr. pp — Ocean View $1044* Fr. pp, Balcony $1539* Fr. pp
12-Day Caribbean $1044* Fr. pp — Ocean View $1194* Fr. pp, Balcony $1339* Fr. pp

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3

A season of 'sorry'

Red Sox hoping talk of September collapse is coming to an abrupt end ◗ Bobby V ready to make 'em sweat ◗ Three things to watch in Week 1

With Camp Apology getting into full swing, the Red Sox are finally close to putting out the fires of 2011 and focusing on firing up a comeback season.

After Sunday's mea culpa session with Jon Lester and Josh Beckett — with one more culpa than the other — Carl Crawford addressed the media yesterday and tried to put John Henry's "I never wanted him," comments behind him.

That largely closes the book on the biggest controversies of last season. As for actual baseball, here are three stories to follow the rest of this first week of camp:

V FOR VICTORY?

There's a new sheriff in town, and while spring training under Terry Francona was never ragged, Red Sox players can expect an even higher level of organization and time utilization under new manager Bobby Valentine. This isn't Dick Williams in 1967 either, but Valentine is not likely to give a lot of rope to the veterans, especially after last September's collapse. How the veterans respond to life with Bobby will go a long way toward determining whether the Red Sox are mentally prepared to battle this season.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jon Lester is looking to put the 2011 season far behind him.

Carl's quip

In response to owner John Henry's remarks about opposing the signing of the outfielder, Carl Crawford had this to say:

"It was unfortunate that he said that. I wasn't happy about it, and a little surprised. It's unfortunate he feels that way."

WALKING WOUNDED

Position players don't begin their workouts until later in the week, but two of the most important pieces — Crawford and Kevin Youkilis — are already in camp. Crawford is recovering from offseason wrist surgery, and he said yesterday he hopes to be ready by Opening Day. Youkilis is ready to go now, after ending last season on the disabled list with a bad hip. Keep an eye on how both respond early on.

ANY WAY FOR JOSE?

Mike Aviles and Nick Punto are expected to battle for the starting job at short, but with neither an exciting option, could there be an opportunity for 22-year-old rookie Jose Iglesias to at least make an impression with Valentine that leads to a call-up during the season. The Cuban star has the tools in the field, but can he hit?

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

In the news

Celtics' Rondo suspended

Rajon Rondo was suspended two games without pay by the NBA yesterday due to his actions from Sunday's game at Detroit. In the third quarter against the Pistons, Rondo angrily tossed the ball at referee Sean Wright after a questionable non-call.

The Cold, Hard football facts

A look at the NFL offseason through the eyes of the stat experts at ColdHardFootballFacts.com:

Defense no longer wins championships A stout defense was once essential for a championship. No more. Only seven champs in NFL history surrendered more than 300 points in a season. The four worst have all come since 2006. The 2011 Giants are the first champ in history to surrender 400 points in a season.

FFChamps.com's "Too Early" 2012 WR rankings

1. Calvin Johnson
2. Greg Jennings
3. Wes Welker

Can Megatron be stopped? The fifth-year receiver from Detroit dominated defenses all season. His 96 grabs, 1,681 yards and 16 TDs made him the clear cut No. 1 WR in 2011, a trend that will surely continue in 2012, especially if QB **Matthew Stafford** stays healthy. **Greg Jennings'** consistency separates him from other receivers and he plays with the league's best signal-caller every week. If you are in a points per reception league, there may not be a better option than **Wes Welker,** with more than 110 receptions in four of the last five seasons.

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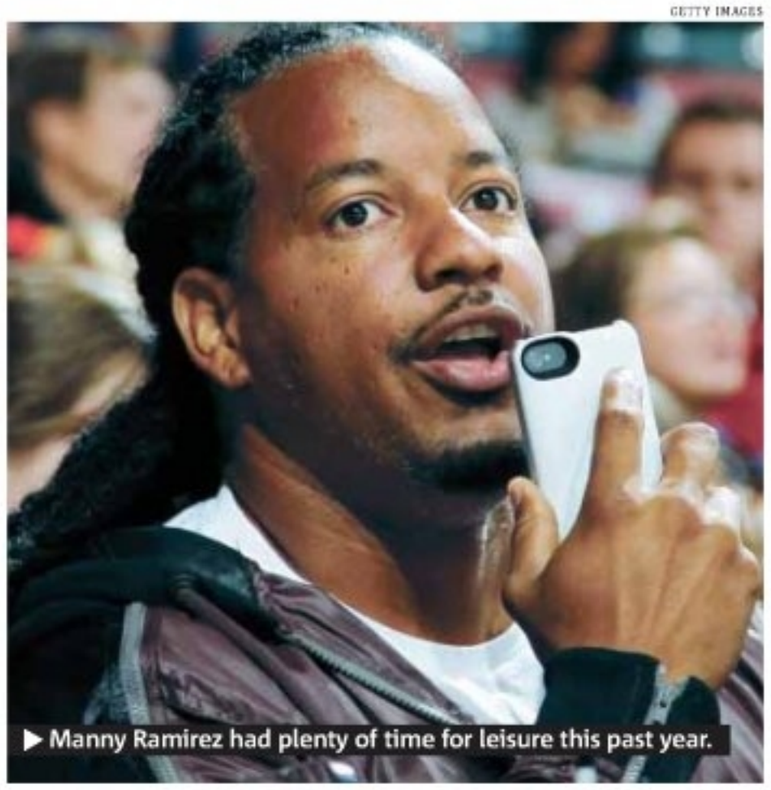

▶ Manny Ramirez had plenty of time for leisure this past year.

Manny drama back on

Things didn't work out so well for Manny Ramirez and the Tampa Bay Rays just one year ago.

The former Red Sox slugger was suspended for violating MLB's drug policy for the second time last April and, in response, Ramirez promptly retired from the game.

But Manny is now officially back and in 2012 he will return to the field in an Oakland Athletics uniform, ESPN reported yesterday.

Due to the suspension that he did not serve last season, Ramirez will be docked 50 games to start the season for Oakland. Barring rainouts, Ramirez' first game back will be on his 40th birthday on May 30 in Minnesota.

ESPN reported the deal to be worth $500,000.

Ramirez has 555 career homers and 1,831 RBI.

5

Manny actually played in five games for Tampa Bay prior to his suspension. In those five games, Ramirez had just one hit, an RBI single.

MATT BURKE
sports@metro.us

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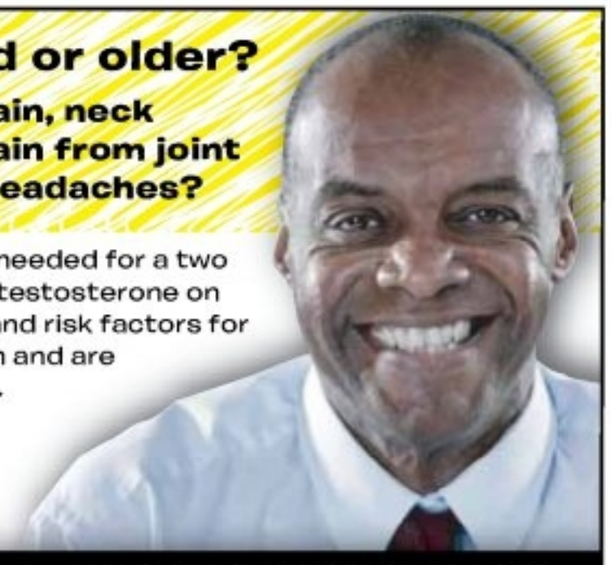

Men who are 60 years and older are needed for a two visit study evaluating effects of low testosterone on body fat, muscle, physical function and risk factors for heart disease. If you suffer from pain and are on pain medications you may qualify.

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MGH Program in Nutritional Metabolism

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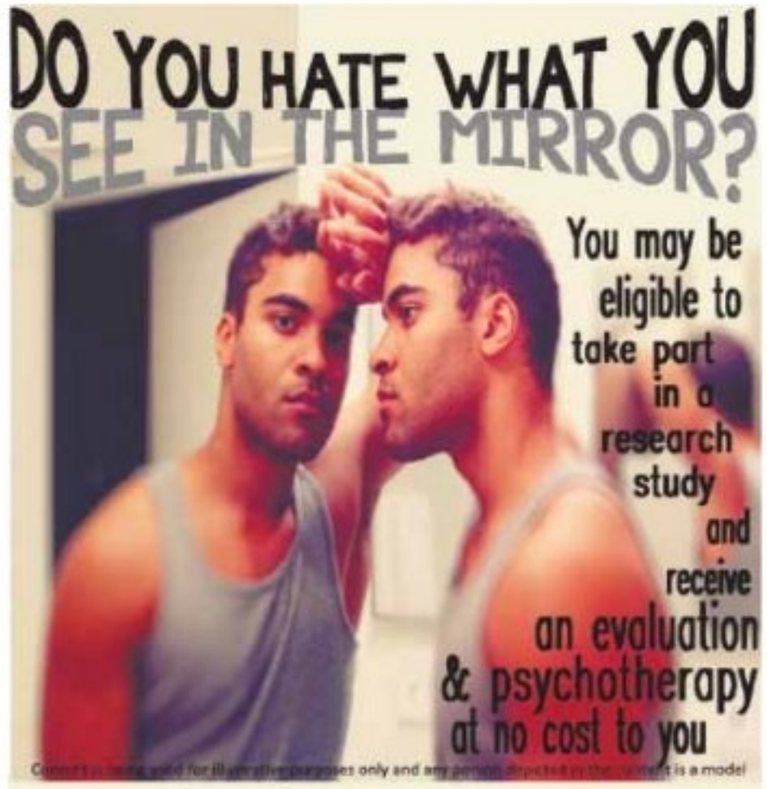
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